WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

for the year 1953.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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F. J. Hallinan,
M.B.E.(Mil), M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,
Area Medical Officer,
No. 7 Area, Monmouthshire.

District Medical Officer,
Blaenavon Urban District.

Council Offices,
Lion Street,
Blaenavon, Mon.

April, 1954.

BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT

Summary of Statistics - 1953.

Area of district	4,613 acres
Rateable value 1.4.'53	£33,660
Estimated net product of 1d. rate (1952-1953)	£124.0.1·4d.
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.'53)	2,849
Number of Council-owned houses (31.12.'53)	418
Population (estimated mid 1953)	9,589
Number of persons per house.	3.4
Census population (1931)-(5,847 males and 5,229 females)	11,076
Census population (1951)-(4,975 males and 4,802 females)	9,777
Number of live births	137
Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.3
Number of illegitimate births	7
Number of stillbirths	2
Number of deaths	129
Death rate per 1,000 population	13.5
Number of infant deaths	5
Infant Mortality rate	36.5
Number of maternal deaths	Nil
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis	1
Death rate per 1,000 population from pul.tuberculosis	0.10
Deaths due to cancer	25
Death rate per 1,000 population due to cancer	2.60
Percentage of total deaths for 1953 due to tuberculosis (all forms)	0.78%
Percentage of total deaths for 1953 due to cancer	19.38%
Deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus	4

Year	Births	Deaths
1946	169	122
1947	202	156
1948	173	116
1949	155	137
1950	150	144
1951	123	125
1952	129	137
1953	137	129

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

to the

Urban District Council of Blaenavon

for the year ending December 31st, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Blaenavon Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Lewis & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the public health of your district for the year 1953. This report has been prepared in accordance with Articles 6(3) and 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and as directed in circular 1/54(Wales) dated 12th January, 1954, of the Welsh Board of Health.

General Comment.

The Annual Report for 1953 shows that the district was not affected with any outbreak of the notifiable diseases, except for a small increase in the incidence of measles. For the fourth successive year there has been no notification of diphtheria which can be in large measure attributed to the continued response to immunisation. For the fourth successive year also the district has remained free from acute poliomyelitis. The tuberculosis death rate has continued to fall but the number of notifications of new cases has remained nearly static for the last four years. This is not, of course, peculiar to the Blaenavon Urban District.

For the first time in three years the births have exceeded the deaths by a small margin. The estimated population for the year continues to show a decrease over previous years.

The replacement of many old and insanitary dwellings and the provision of an adequate and satisfactory water supply still remain Blaenavon's major problems from a public health aspect.

BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman:- Councillor D. J. Scourfield, J.P.
Vice Chairman:- Councillor E. J. Davies, B.A.

Central Ward Councillors:-

Councillor Miss A.M.Lewis,J.P.
R. A. Watkins.
D.W. Puddle.
H. T. Wathen.
J. Davies.
C. G. Parker.

East Ward Councillors:-

Councillor:- D. W. Walker.
W. H. Taylor.
S. Banks.
T. J. Palser.
C. Evans.
A. Penhelog.

West Ward Councillors:-

Councillor:- A. P. Griffiths.
R. J. Morris, B.A.
D. J. Scourfield,J.P.
E. J. Davies, B.A.
A. J. Bowen.
R. H. Jenkins.

The Ordinary meeting is held on the last Wednesday in each month. at 6 p.m.

The Housing Committee meet on the first Wednesday in each month.

The General Purposes Committee meet on the second Wednesday in each month.

The Finance Committee meet on the third Wednesday in each month.

The Officers' monthly reports are taken at the monthly Council meeting.

Officers of the Council:-

Clerk of the Council and Chief Financial Officer:-	I. G. Gwyn Thomas, F.C.I.S., F.A.C.C.A.
Deputy Clerk of the Council:-	T. A. George, A.C.I.S.
Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer:-	G. C. E. Thomas, J.P.
Medical Officer of Health:-	F.J. Hallinan, M.B.E.(Mil), M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector:-	W. A. Curtis, M.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A.

General statistics and social conditions.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population as at mid 1953 was 9,589.

1921 census population = 12,469 (6,594 males & 5,875 females)

1931 census population = 11,076 (5,847 males & 5,229 females)

1951 census population = 9,777 (4,975 males & 4,802 females)

Elevations above sea level.

St. Peter's Church	1,035 feet.
No. 4 Reservoir	1,319 feet.
Penffordgoch	1,573 feet.

Estimated populations - mid 1953 - adjacent Urban Districts.

Abergavenny M.B.	9,070	Abercarn U.D.	18,460	Abertillery U.D.	27,150
Bedwellty U.D.	28,480	Cwmbran U.D.	14,410	Ebbw Vale U.D.	28,520
Monmouth M.B.	5,738	Tredegar U.D.	20,420	Pontypool U.D.	42,320

The Blaenavon Urban District is situated at the apex of the Eastern Valley of Monmouthshire and, having regard to its situation, is moderately well served by road and rail.

The decline of the town's own industries sees many of the working population travelling daily to employment in neighbouring districts.

Rainfall.

The district's rainfall for the year was recorded in the grounds of No.2 Reservoir and supplied by the Council's Surveyor, Mr. G. C. E. Thomas, J.P.

Jan.	1.14 inches	July	5.82 inches
Feb.	2.08 "	Aug.	5.17 "
March.	2.40 "	Sept.	6.06 "
April	6.06 "	Oct.	4.60 "
May	4.07 "	Nov.	4.17 "
June	3.34 "	Dec.	2.30 "

Total 47.21 inches.

The district's rainfall for the last 10 years was as follows:-

1944	47.13 inches	1949	50.90 inches
1945	51.15 "	1950	56.89 "
1946	67.78 "	1951	67.28 "
1947	47.74 "	1952	54.69 "
1948	61.72 "	1953	47.21 "

Vital Statistics

Births.

Table I. Showing the yearly number of live births, estimated mid-year populations and birth rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1946.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of births	137	129	123	150	155	173	202	169
Estimated mid-year population.	9,589	9,628	9,719	9,981	9,975	9,922	9,764	9,797
Birth rate per 1,000 population.	14.3	13.4	12.7	15.0	15.5	17.4	20.6	17.3

The live births assigned to the district for 1953 numbered 137, comprised of 68 males and 69 females. There were 7 (3 males and 4 females) illegitimate births. The live births for 1954 showed an increase over 1952 of 8. During the years 1951 and 1952 the births did not replace those dying during the year. However, during 1953 the births have exceeded the deaths by 8, which figure is the natural increase for the year.

There were 2 (1 male and 1 female) stillbirths, both of legitimate birth, during the year.

The stillbirth rate for England and Wales (per 1,000 population) for 1953 was 0.35, while that for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire was 0.47 and that for the Blaenavon Urban District was 0.21.

Comparative birth rates, etc., are shown on table X.

The local birth rate for this district can be compared with that for England and Wales if the local rate is first multiplied by the comparability factor for births given by the General Register Office, which is 1.10.

Table II Showing the births registered in and allocated to the Blaenavon Urban District for 1953, according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable births.

Month	Male	Female	Total	Quarterly births
January	3	5	8	
February	2	-	2	15
March	3	2	5	
April	2	4	6	
May	7	3	10	19
June	3	-	3	
July	3	6	9	
August	2	2	4	18
September	1	4	5	
October	2	1	3	
November	-	3	3	10
December	1	3	4	
Totals	29	33	62	62
Inward transferable births	39	36	75	
Grand total for year 1953	68	69	137	

Comparative birth rates for 1953.

Blaenavon Urban District	14.3
Monmouthshire Administrative County	16.8
England and Wales	15.5

Deaths.

Table III Showing the yearly number of deaths, estimated mid-year population and the death rate per 1,000 population for this district since 1946.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths	129	137	125	144	139	116	156	122
Estimated mid-year population	9,589	9,628	9,719	9,981	9,975	9,922	9,764	9,797
Death rate per 1,000 population	13.5	14.2	12.9	14.4	13.7	11.7	15.8	12.5

The deaths assigned to the district for 1953 numbered 129, comprised of 71 males and 58 females. There was a decrease of 8 in the number of deaths as compared with the previous year.

Table V shows how the 129 deaths were allocated to the various causes.

Once again there was no maternal death due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. The maternal mortality rate for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire was 1.09 per 1,000 births (live and still).

There was only one death due to pulmonary tuberculosis (a male aged 40 years) and none allocated to non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Deaths due to tuberculosis were 0.78% of the total deaths for the year.

There were 25 deaths (16 males and 9 females) due to all forms of cancer, and representing 19.38% of the total deaths for the year. There were 4 deaths (all males) assigned to cancer of the lung and bronchi, or 3.1% of the total deaths for the year.

The diseases of the heart and blood vessels accounted for 59 deaths (31 males and 28 females), or 45.74% of the total deaths.

There were no deaths assigned to influenza.

Four deaths (all females) were allocated to pneumonia.

Eleven deaths (7 males and 4 females) were assigned to bronchitis.

There were no deaths due to motor vehicle accidents.

All other accidents caused 2 deaths - both males.

There were 2 suicides (one male and one female).

The total death rate may be compared with that for England and Wales by multiplying the local rate with the comparability factor given by the General Register Office, which is 1.03.

Table IV Showing the deaths registered in and assigned to the Blaenavon Urban District for 1953, according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable deaths.

MONTH	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly deaths
January	7	--	7)	
February	7	10	17)	32
March	2	6	8)	
April	3	6	9)	
May	9	3	12)	27
June	1	5	6)	
July	4	4	8)	
August	3	3	6)	23
September	5	4	9)	
October	4	3	7)	
November	6	3	9)	24
December	5	3	8)	
Totals	56	50	106	106
Inward transferable deaths	15	8	23	
Grand total for the year 1953	71	58	129	

Comparative death rates.

Blaenavon Urban District	13.5
Monmouthshire Administrative County	11.6
England and Wales	11.4

Table V Showing the deaths from all causes, infant deaths, births and stillbirths allocated to this district for 1953.

Causes of death	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-
5. Whooping cough.	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	4	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	8	5
15. Leukaemia and Aleukaemia.	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	5	4
18. Coronary disease, angina.	11	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	-	4
20. Other heart disease.	12	11
21. Other circulatory disease.	3	3
22. Influenza.	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	-	4
24. Bronchitis.	7	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases.	7	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents.	2	-
35. Suicide.	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
Total all causes	71	58
Deaths in infants under 1 year of age:-	2	3
Legitimate	2	2
Illegitimate	-	1
Total births:-	68	69
Legitimate	65	65
Illegitimate	3	4
Stillbirths:-	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-

Estimated population - mid 1953 = 9,589
(for calculation of births and death rates)

Comparability Factors:-

Births	Deaths
1.10	1.03

Table VI Showing the number of inquests during 1953 on persons belonging to this district, and the circumstances of the deaths.

Circumstances of death	Male	Female	Total
Asphyxia due to drowning	1	-	1
Nephritis and heart failure	1	-	1
Mining accidents (underground)	1	-	1
Suicides	1	1	2
All causes	4	1	5

There were 5 inquests held on persons belonging to this district during the year who died through accidental or other means as shown above.

The mining accident refers to a collier aged 54 years.

The drowning fatality refers to a male aged 55 years.

The two suicidal deaths referred to a male aged 70 years and a female aged 40 years.

The death assigned to nephritis and heart disease was that of a male aged 54 years.

There were no fatal road accidents involving persons of this district during the year.

Infant Mortality.

Table VII Showing the number of infant deaths, live births, etc., since 1946 in the Blaenavon Urban District.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year.	5	3	6	2	8	8	7	11
Number of live births	137	129	123	150	155	173	202	169
Infant mortality rate (i.e.no.of deaths in infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	36.5	23.3	48.8	13.3	51.6	46.2	34.6	65.1

There were five infant deaths during the year involving 2 males and 3 females. This figure compares favourably with a yearly average of 6 deaths over the preceeding seven years. Two of these deaths were neonatal and due to causes over which little control can be exercised.

Table VIII Showing the infant deaths assigned to this district for 1953, by cause and in age groups.

Cause of death	under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Atelectasis	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Broncho-pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gastro-enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Convulsion	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
All causes	2	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	5

Table IX Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the County Boroughs and Great Towns, the small towns, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Blaenavon U.D., for 1953, 1952, 1951, 1950 and 1949.

Year	England and Wales	160 Co.Boro's & Great Towns (including London).	160 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25-50 thousand at 1951 census)	Administrative Co. of Monmouthshire	Blaenavon U. D.
1949	32.0	37.0	30.0	42.7	51.6
1950	29.8	33.8	29.4	39.8	13.3
1951	29.6	33.9	27.6	43.1	48.8
1952	27.6	31.2	25.8	33.9	23.3
1953	26.8	30.8	24.3	32.6	36.5

Table X. Comparison of the vital statistics for England and Wales, etc., the Administrative County of Monmouthshire, Blaenavon U.D., and Pontypool U.D., for the years 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

	Birth rates per 1,000 population.								Death rates per 1,000 population				Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births			
	Live Births 1953	still births 1953	live births 1952	still births 1952	live births 1951	still births 1951	live births 1950	still births 1950	1953	1952	1951	1950	1953	1952	1951	1950
England and Wales	15.5	0.35	15.3	0.35	15.5	0.36	15.8	0.37	11.4	11.3	12.5	11.6	26.8	27.6	29.6	29.8
160 Co.Boro's and Great Towns (including London)	17.0	0.43	16.9	0.43	17.3	0.45	17.6	0.45	12.2	12.1	13.4	12.3	30.8	31.2	33.9	33.8
160 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25-50 thousand at 1951 census.	15.7	0.34	15.5	0.36	16.7	0.38	16.7	0.38	11.3	11.2	12.5	11.6	24.3	25.8	27.6	29.4
London Administrative County.	17.5	0.38	17.6	0.34	17.8	0.37	17.8	0.36	12.5	12.6	13.1	11.8	24.8	23.8	26.4	26.3
Administrative Co. of Monmouthshire	16.8	0.47	17.2	0.47	16.5	0.49	17.4	0.58	11.6	11.5	13.4	12.3	32.7	[illegible]	43.1	39.8
Pontypool U. D.	16.1	0.31	16.5	0.59	16.4	0.49	17.3	0.51	11.0	12.0	13.4	11.9	33.7	27.2	43.0	43.1
Blaenavon U. D.	14.3	0.21	13.4	0.31	12.7	0.82	15.0	0.40	13.5	14.2	12.9	14.4	36.5	23.3	48.8	13.3

Notifiable Diseases.

Diphtheria.

For the fourth consecutive year there was no notification of this disease. The last notification was in 1949 and there had been none for two years previously.

Immunisation against diphtheria is available through the family doctors or through the local infant welfare clinic. Reinforcing doses are available at the schools for new entrants, and primary immunisation is offered if children have not already been so protected in infancy.

Anti-diphtheria immunisations carried out in this district during 1953 were as follows:-

	Age at date of final injection (as regards A) or of re-inforcing injection (as regards B).							
	und 1yr	1yr	2yrs	3yrs	4yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	Total
A.No.of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area for the year ended 31.12.'53	58	30	7	3	5	35	1	139
B.No.of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) dose subsequent to primary immunisation in the year ended 31.12.'53.	-	-	-	-	36	79	-	115

Measles.

There were 58 notifications (24 males and 34 females) of measles during the year and no death was assigned to this cause.

Whooping Cough.

There were 3 notifications (all males) of whooping cough and no death was assigned to this cause.

Acute Primary Pneumonia.

There were 3 notifications (2 males and 1 female) of acute primary pneumonia.

Erysipelas.

There were 2 notifications (both females) of erysipelas during the year.

Table XI Showing the infectious and other notifiable diseases notified in this district during 1953, analysed in sex and age groups and giving the admissions to hospital (Tuberculosis excluded).

Disease	Under 1 yr		1 - 2 yrs		2 - 3 yrs		3 - 4 yrs		4 - 5 yrs		5 -10 yrs		10-15 yrs		15-20 yrs		20-35 yrs		35-45 yrs		45-65 yrs		65 & over		All Ages		Total	Cases Admitted to Hospital
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	3	2	2	5	-	1	4	4	2	1	13	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	34	58	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute primary and influenzal pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis:-																												
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	2	3	5	1	1	5	4	2	1	13	21	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	31	37	68	-

Table XII Showing the number of cases of notifiable disease notified during the last 10 years.

Disease	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
Scarlet fever	-	1	6	9	30	34	4	3	23	3
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute primary and influenzal pneumonia	3	2	4	-	2	4	-	1	1	4
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1
Poliomyelitis:-										
(1)paralytic	-	-	-	-	6	-	3	-	-	-
(2) non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	5	2	8	3	8	1	4	4	1
Measles	58	35	236	1	-	397	8	3	142	4
Whooping Cough	3	22	2	2	49	6	-	5	1	-
Food poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Food Poisoning.

There were 2 notifications (both males) of food poisoning during the year. These were two of a number of pupils from the district who were invloved in a food poisoning incident in a common canteen serving the Abersychan Grammar and Technical Schools in the Pontypool Urban District. Expeditious investigation involving the more recent advances in the bacteriophage typing of organisms led to the discovery of the most likely source of infection in this outbreak. The offending item of dietary was a bacon brawn consumed for lunch and the infecting organism was a coagulase-positive staphylococcus aureus.

No notifications were received for diphtheria, scarlet fever, puerperal pyrexia, meningococcal infections, typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, ophthalmia neonatorum, acute encephalitis, poliomyelitis or smallpox.

Vaccination.

The number of vaccinations against smallpox carried out in the Blaenavon Urban District during 1953 was as follows:-

Age at date of Vaccination.	Under 1 yr	1 yr	2-4yrs	5-14yrs	15 plus	Total
No. vaccinated	30	3	6	1	-	40
No.revaccinated	-	-	-	1	6	7

Tuberculosis.

The Blaenavon Urban District is served by the Chest Clinic at the Park Buildings, Pontypool, where a whole-day clinic is held every Tuesday and Thursday. New cases and old patients are usually seen at the Tuesday clinic and contacts at the Thursday clinic.

There were 8 new cases (2 males and 6 females) of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year and 2 cases (1 male and 1 female) of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. All new cases were visited by the Medical Officer of Health and a full environmental report was submitted to the Chest Physician and the County Medical Officer of Health in each case. Arrangements were made for the attendance of all household contacts at the chest clinic for skin testing and xray as necessary. The attendance of the household contacts was very good.

Disinfection in the home was carried out as required and a supply of disinfectant was available as required in certain cases from the Council's public health department.

The facility for skin testing of all children attending the infant welfare clinic continued to be available and full advantage is being taken of this service by parents. This is a valuable aid to case finding and it is pleasing to find so few children under the age of 5 years who are positive reactors.

It was not possible to arrange a further mass radiography survey of the general population during the year but experience gained from the previous two surveys indicated a certain lack of interest on the part of the public as reflected in the number of attendances. It would appear that a 30% response is the best that can be expected here for a general population survey and this response is much too low to gain even a few of the advantages of a visit from a mobile mass radiography unit. It is amongst those who do not attend for one reason and another that the possible cases of pulmonary tuberculosis lie, and it is obvious that xraying only 1 in 3 or less is only scratching on the surface of the problem of case finding and the ultimate eradication of tuberculosis.

Table XIII Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1953, analysed in age and sex groups, and by type of disease.

Age Groups in years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
15-20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 plus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	6	1	1	1	-	-	-

The death rates from tuberculosis for this district for 1953 were as follows:-

(Rates for 1952 are in parentheses)

(a) Tuberculosis (all forms) - 0.10 per 1,000 population (0.31)

(b) Pulmonary tuberculosis - 0.10 per 1,000 population (0.31)

(c) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis - Nil per 1,000 population (Nil)

Table XIV Showing the number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the tuberculosis register of the Blaenavon Urban District Council 31.12.53.

Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	
30	15	46	5	96

Table XV Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1942.

Year	Yearly notifications of tuberculosis				Total yearly notifications of pulmonary & non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Yearly deaths from tuberculosis				Total of Yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1942	4	6	2	2	14	3	5	-	1	9
1943	8	13	3	1	25	1	6	1	-	8
1944	8	17	1	3	29	3	3	1	1	8
1945	7	8	1	1	17	-	4	1	3	8
1946	10	7	5	-	22	1	4	1	1	7
1947	6	9	2	-	17	3	6	3	2	14
1948	9	6	-	1	16	3	5	1	-	9
1949	8	8	1	-	17	1	2	-	-	3
1950	2	3	2	-	7	4	-	-	-	4
1951	5	3	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
1952	3	8	1	-	12	1	2	-	-	3
1953	2	6	1	1	10	1	-	-	-	1

Table XVI Showing the occupations of new cases of tuberculosis in males notified during 1953.

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Total
Insurance Agent	1	-	1
School	1	1	2
Totals	2	1	3

Table XVII Showing the occupations of new cases of tuberculosis in females notified during 1953.

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Total
School	1	1	2
Housewife	3	-	3
Telephonist	1	-	1
Salvation Army	1	-	1
Totals	6	1	7

Table XVIII Showing the monthly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for the year 1953.

Month	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
January	1	-	-	-	1
February	1	1	-	-	2
March	-	1	-	-	1
April	-	1	-	-	1
May	-	2	-	-	2
June	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	1	-	1
October	-	1	-	-	1
November	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	2	6	1	1	10

In addition to the above notifications there was one inward transfer of a female case of pulmonary tuberculosis.

Table XIX Showing the admissions and discharges to Institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis during 1953.

Institution	Admissions		Discharges	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Glan Ely Hospital	2	-	2	-
Chepstow Annexe	1	-	1	-
Cefn Mably Sanatorium	-	6	-	2
Sully Hospital	-	2	-	-
Kensington Hospital Haverfordwest.	-	-	-	1
Adelina Patti Hospital	-	1	1	1
Talgarth Sanatorium	-	-	2	-
Totals	3	9	6	4

Table XX Showing the notification rates and the death rates per 1,000 population for tuberculosis for this district since 1938

Year	Notification rates per 1,000 population		Death rates per 1,000 population	
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1938	2.93	.30	.51	.00
1939	3.02	.68	.59	.00
1940	2.11	.48	.67	.10
1941	2.62	.09	.47	.00
1942	1.00	.40	.79	.10
1943	2.14	.41	.71	.10
1944	2.54	.41	.61	.21
1945	1.55	.21	.50	.50
1946	1.74	.51	.51	.20
1947	1.54	.20	.92	.51
1948	1.51	.10	.81	.10
1949	1.61	.10	.30	.00
1950	.50	.20	.40	.00
1951	.82	.00	.00	.00
1952	1.14	.10	.31	.00
1953	.83	.21	.10	.00

The death rates per 1,000 population for tuberculosis for England and Wales, etc.,for 1953.

England & Wales	160 Co.Boro's & Great Towns (inc.London)	160 smaller Towns (resident pop. 25-50,000 at 1951 census)	London Administrative County.
0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24.

Public Health (Prevention of tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was necessary under the above regulations in respect of tuberculous employees in the milk trade during the year.

Miscellaneous.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Food and Drugs Authority for this district is the Monmouthshire County Council.

Disposal of house and trade refuse.

Disposal continues to be by the uncontrolled system of tipping.

Public Swimming Baths

This bath is an open-air one and provided with purification plant which is adequately maintained.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of this Act during the year.

National Health Service Act, 1946.

The local health services under Part III of this Act are provided by the Monmouthshire County Council.

Attendance at Conferences.

The Medical Officer of Health was delegated by this Council to attend as one of its representatives at the Conference of the Royal Sanitary Institute at Hastings. This conference was very imformative and the Medical Officer of Health thanks the Council for their thoughtfulness in sending him.

Food inspection, etc.

Meat.

There is no slaughterhouse in use in the district and the supply of fresh butchers' meat comes from an abattoir in a neighbouring district where there is a full-time meat inspector employed jointly by this Authority and two others to attend to the inspection of meat. This Authority's sanitary inspector is a qualified inspector of meat and does his turn of duty at the above abattoir when the regular inspector is on holiday or absent through sickness.

The frozen meat and bacon supplies are supervised at the retailers' shops in the district.

Ice-cream.

There is only one manufacturer of ice cream in the district and the main supply comes from those firms who have a nation-wide interest in this trade.

Twelve samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and all fell in either Provisional Grade I or Grade II, which is very satisfactory.

Milk.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district and all supplies of heat treated milk are imported from other areas.

Samples of milk numbering 43 (18 pasteurised, 10 tuberculin tested pasteurised, 3 sterilised and 12 ungraded) were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, for examination and, with few exceptions, were reported on as satisfactory.

There are two dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 in the district.

Food shops - inspections.

During the year repeated inspections have been carried out on all the food premises in the district to ensure that Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act,1938 and the Food Byelaws are being observed. So that the occupants of such premises might be reminded of their obligations in this respect copies of these requirements

/were again sent

were again sent to every food trader in the district with an explanatory letter. In addition, a personal letter was sent to all food handlers employed in food shops in the district by the Medical Officer of Health pointing out the important position of responsibility they held in the community in the matter of maintaining a clean supply of food to the public. In conjunction with this personal letter to each food handler was sent a printed leaflet issued by the Central Council for Health Education entitled, "the customer's health is in your hands."

Classification and number of food premises in the area.

Grocery and provisions	30
Confectionery, ice cream, milk, etc.	29
Greengrocery, fishmongery.	15
Butchers' shops	11
Fried fish shops	8
Cafes	5
Bakers and confectioners	4
Cooked meat shops	4
Licensed victuallers	28
Clubs	5
Total	139

Premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Premises registered under this section number 25 and have been visited on 124 occasions during the year.

Disposal of condemned food.

Condemned foods are disposed of on the Council's refuse disposal site, with the exception of rationed goods over a prescribed weight which are returned to the wholesalers. Fresh meat condemned in the butchers' shops is returned to the public abattoir, Brynmawr.

Legal proceedings in respect of food unfit for human consumption.

(a) A dairy company was prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court for selling a bottle of pasteurised milk to a customer which contained fragments of broken glass. The case succeeded and the company was fined £10 with £2 costs. The case was taken under section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(b) A dairy company was prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court for selling a bottle of pastuerised milk to a customer without ensuring that the bottle had been properly cleansed prior to being filled. The case succeeded and the company was fined £5 and £2.10.0 costs. The case was taken under Section 26 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Different dairy companies were involved in the above prosecutions.

Water Supply.

No change took place in the district's water supply during the year so that quality and quantity remain unchanged. The domestic piped supply consists of a chlorinated supply from the Abertillery Water Board, a local sand filtered supply and a local untreated supply. Samples taken during the year numbered 18 and were satisfactory apart from the untreated supply.

Housing.

The following tables show the progress made in the erection of new houses during 1953.

Table XXV Showing the number of houses owned by this Authority on 31.12.'53.

	Temp. Pre-fabs	Non-traditional houses	Traditional houses	Total
No.of houses owned by L.A.at 31.12.'53.	50	84	284	418
No.of houses in course of erection by L.A. on 31.12.'53.	-	-	-	-
No.of houses for which sanction has been given but which had not been commenced on 31.12.'53.	-	20	-	20

Table XXVI Showing the number of houses erected during 1953 by the L.A. and by private enterprise.

	Temp Pre-fabs	Non-traditional Dwellings	Traditional houses
By Local Authority	-	26	-
By Private enterprise	-	-	-
Total	-	26	-

Number of houses under construction by private enterprise but not completed on 31.12.'53:- Nil.

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Inspections of factories in the district during the year showed that conditions were generally satisfactory and, where defects were found, the necessary action to remedy matters was expeditiously undertaken.

Table XXVII Showing the number of factories and inspections thereof carried out during 1953.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority.	8	50	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the L.A.	30	86	2	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	38	136	2	-

Table XXVII Showing the defects found in factories and action taken.

	Number of defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M.Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	-

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Particulars of complaints received, notices served and the result of action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts, etc., by the Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Disease Prevention.

Enquiries made re infectious diseases	0
Visits to infectious cases	0
Houses disinfected after infectious cases	2
Bedding etc., treated at disinfecting station	0
Rooms disinfested (sprayed & fumigated) re household pests	25

Complaints received, notices served, etc.

Number of complaints received re defects and nuisances	50
Number of complaints attended to	50
Nuisances and defects found through inspection of district	22

Public Health Act Notices.

Informal notices served under Public Health Act	70
Informal notices complied with	42
Statutory notices served under Public Health Act	27
Statutory notices complied with	34

Housing Act Notices

Informal notices served under Housing Act	0
Informal notices complied with	0
Formal notices served under Housing Act	0
Formal notices complied with	0
Demolition Orders made (Section 11 Housing Act)	0
Closing Orders made (Section 12 Housing Act)	3

Food and Drugs Act Notices

Informal notices served under Food and Drugs Act	10
Informal notices complied with	2
Formal notices served under Food and Drugs Act	2
Formal notices complied with	2

Factory Act Notices

Informal notices served under Factory Act	2
Informal notices complied with	2
Formal notices served under Factory Act	0
Formal notices complied with	0

Shops Act Notices

Informal notices served under Shops Act	0
Informal notices complied with	1
Formal notices served under Shops Act	0
Formal notices complied with	0

Pests Act Notices

Informal notices served under Pests Act	0
Informal notices complied with	0
Formal notices served under Pests Act	0
Formal notices complied with	0

Bye-laws

Notices served under Bye-laws (dumping of house refuse, etc.	74

General Sanitary Inspections.

Visits to waterworks and water supply	113
drains, drainage works and sewers	150
streams, ditches, gutters and watercourses	62
offensive accumulations	0
stables and piggeries	69
refuse tips	77
animals improperly kept	0
rats and mice infestation	57
houses let in lodgings	0
public conveniences and urinals	274
vans, sheds and moveable dwellings	0
factories (mechanical)	50
factories (non-mechanical)	50
offices re sanitary accommodation, light, ventilation, etc.	2
shops re Shops Act (health and comfort)	81
schools	39
back lanes, open spaces & refuse dumping	178
amusement places (cinemas, halls, etc.)	0
liconsed premises (hotels, inns, beer-houses etc.)	20
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	110
Interviews with property owners, building contractors.	113
Total	1,440

House Inspections

Dwelling houses inspected and recorded (Housing Act)	1
revisited after service of notice (housing Act)	0
Dwelling houses visited for nuisances and defects (Public Health Act)	70
revisited after service of notice (P.H. Act)	556
Dwelling houses visited re overcrowding (Housing Act)	10
Council houses inspected on change of tenancy	5
Routine inspection of Council houses	496
Council houses on Supervision list	24
Visits to dirty and verminous houses	44
Miscellaneous housing visits	70
Total	1,276

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Visits to dairies and milkshops	66
bakehouses	36
butchers' shops	380
emergency and occasional slaughtering	0
cooked meat shops and other food preparing premises	84
restaurants and restaurant kitchens	43
works and school canteens	20
fried fish shops	97
provision shops and stores	178
fish, fruit and vegetable shops	179
ice cream premises and vehicles	40
street vendors and hawkers vans and carts.	14
Total	1,127

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Report for year ended 31st December, 1953.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural properties	All other including Business Premises	Total
1. Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district.	35	2,698	22	236	2,991
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. during 1953 as a result of:- (a) notification (b) otherwise	(a) -	47	0	2	49
	(b) 26	1,056	22	178	2,282
3. No. of properties under (2) found to be infested by rats	Major -	-	-	-	-
	Minor 23	46	0	1	70
4. Number of premises under (2) found to be seriously infested by mice	1	12	0	1	14
5. No. of properties under (3) and (4) treated by Local Authority.	24	58	0	2	84
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 (1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Structural works i.e. proofing	-	-	-	-	-
7. No. of cases in which action was taken by Local Authority following issue of a notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-

No. of block control schemes carried out - Nil.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. W. A. Curtis, the Council's Sanitary Inspector, for his very able assistance during the year and also the other departments of the Authority for their kind co-operation. I would also thank all members of the Council for their helpfulness during the year.

I am,
Yours obediently,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH